

138. DYP SIS ACAULIS

A very distinctive stemless palm, known only from a single herbarium specimen collected by Perrier de la Bâthie on the Masoala Peninsula. This is one of the very few palms in Madagascar that has whitish undersides to the leaves. This combined with the habit, the undivided blade and the spicate inflorescence should make it easy to identify. Despite this, it has not been refound. The species name (Latin for stemless) refers to the habit of this palm.

DISTRIBUTION. NE Madagascar, Masoala Peninsula.

HABITAT. Lowland rain forest; 40 m.

LOCAL NAMES. Not recorded.

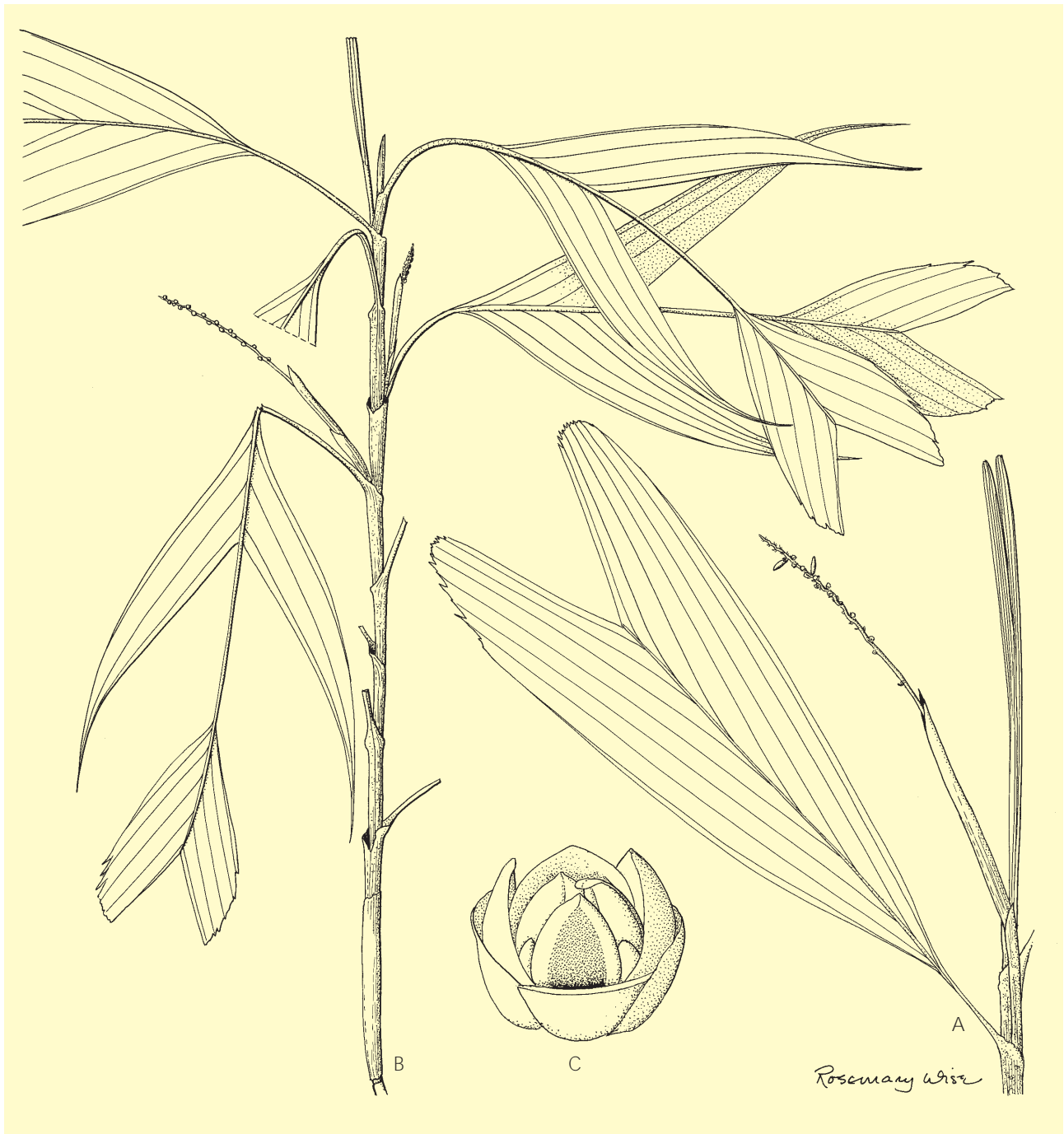
USES. Not recorded.

CONSERVATION STATUS. Presumed extinct. Not collected for more than eighty years.

Dypsis acaulis *J. Dransf. sp. nov.*

acaulescens, procumbens, foliis bifidis pagina inferiore laminae indumento griseo tecta, inflorescentia spicata, longe pedunculata, floribus staminatis triandris staminibus antepetalis bene distincta. Typus: Madagascar, Antalaha, Masoala, Marambo, *Perrier* 12044 (Holotypus P; isotypus K).

Acaulescent forest undergrowth palm. **STEM** probably solitary, procumbent, 5 cm long, c. 18 mm diam., circular in cross section, drying pale buff; roots cylindrical, c. 3 mm diam. at insertion. **LEAVES** entire,



Dypsis spicata. **A** crown with entire bifid leaf $\times 3/5$; **B** crown with divided leaves $\times 3/5$; **C** staminate flower, one petal removed $\times 30$. **A** from *Dransfield et al.* JD6753, **B, C** from *Dransfield et al.* JD6748. Drawn by Rosemary Wise.



**Dypsis
acaulis**



**Dypsis
canescens**

bifid; sheath open to the base, 6 × 3 cm (opened out at the base), pale brown covered with reddish brown tomentum and dark brown punctiform scales; petiole c. 26 × 0.4 cm, triangular in cross section, adaxially shallowly channelled, the margins quite sharp, ± glabrescent, pale buff or with sparse reddish brown tomentum; costa of leaf 18 cm long, outer leaf margins 45 cm long, inner margins c. 28 cm, the two lobes 4.5–5.5 cm wide, the tips irregularly dentate or subpraemorse; lamina with c. 8–9 major adaxial folds, adaxial surface drying grey, transverse veinlets conspicuous but short, abaxially covered in dense grey indumentum and red-brown punctiform scales. **INFLORESCENCE** spicate to c. 22 cm; peduncle c. 13 cm, c. 2 mm diam.; prophyll tightly tubular, 9 × 0.3 cm; peduncular bract c. 15 × 0.3 cm, both covered in scattered brown lacerate scales; spike to 9 × 0.3–0.4 cm, cylindrical, densely covered in thick red-brown tomentum entirely obscuring bracts and flowers, only very faintly showing impressions of bracts; bracts scarcely 1 mm high forming pits. **STAMINATE FLOWERS** 0.7 mm high; sepals 3, c. 0.25 mm, margins ciliate, chaffy, buff-coloured; petals 3, dark, c. 0.7 × 0.3 mm, longitudinally striate; stamens 3, antepetalous, anthers didymous, staminodes 3, dentiform, between the fertile stamens; pistillode minute, pyramidal. **FRUIT** (lost), said to be bright red, fusiform, 20 × 6 mm. (Plate: see next page).

NOTE. Known only from material with very young staminate flower buds.

SPECIMENS SEEN. Antalaha: Masoala, Marambo, towards Antalaha, Aug. 1912 (buds), *Perrier* 12044 (Holotype P; isotype K).

139. DYPISIS CANESCENS

INSUFFICIENTLY KNOWN SPECIES

DISTRIBUTION. NW Madagascar, only known from the type.

HABITAT. Forest on sandstone; c. 40 m.

LOCAL NAMES. Not recorded.

USES. Not recorded.

CONSERVATION STATUS. Presumed extinct; not seen for more than fifty years.

Dypsis canescens (*Jum. & H. Perrier*) *Beentje & J. Dransf.* **comb. nov.**

SYNONYM:

Chrysalidocarpus canescens *Jum. & H. Perrier*, *Ann. Inst. Bot.-Géol. Colon. Marseille sér. 3*, 1 (1): 38, t. 19 (1913); *Jum.*, *Ann. Inst. Bot.-Géol. Colon. Marseille sér. 10*, 3: 12 (1922); *Jum.*, *Cat. Pl. Madagascar, Palmae*: 8 (1938); *Jum. & H. Perrier*, *Fl. Madagascar 30*: 106 (1945). Type: Madagascar, Sambirano forest at Ambaliha, *Perrier* s.n. (?P, not seen)

DESCRIPTION FROM LITERATURE: **TRUNK** 4–8m, straight, ringed, < 10 cm diam., base somewhat thickened in a cone. **LEAVES** 8–12, ascending; sheath glabrous, membranous, without ligule; petiole absent; rachis c. 2 m long; leaflets regular, recurved, 3.5–4 cm distant, proximal 60–65 × 0.6–0.7 cm, median 75–80 × 1.5 cm, some brownish rameta on the midrib, adaxially white-mealy when young. **INFLORESCENCE** at most branched to 2 orders; peduncle 60 cm; prophyll borne at 13 cm above the base of the peduncle, 40 cm long, split only at apex; peduncular bract deciduous, inserted at 30 cm above the base of the peduncle, 45 cm long, conical at the apex, split along its length; rachillae often with paired or solitary staminate flowers due to abortion of the pistillate ones. **STAMINATE FLOWERS** with keeled and slightly spurred sepals, glabrous, ovate, obtuse, 2 × 2 mm; petals ovate, acute, 3 × 2.2 mm; filaments c. 1.3 mm; ovary rudiment cylindrical, 1.8 mm, about as long as the stamens. **PISTILLATE FLOWERS** unknown. **FRUIT** unknown.

NOTE. In the protologue the species is compared (as is *Chrysalidocarpus brevinodis*) with *D. lutescens* with the following difference: absence of petiole.

The type locality is either Ambaliha on the Ampasindava Peninsula, as seems to be indicated in the protologue, or another Ambaliha (not found on map or in Gazetteer) on the left bank of the Sambirano River.

The fact that it is compared with *D. lutescens* makes us think the leaflets might be regular, but unfortunately we cannot be certain.

SPECIMENS SEEN. None. Despite a thorough search, we have not found the type specimen.